21 NOV 57
17

Filing

Cornwall.

BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1956.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J. REED, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
C.R. LAWLESS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
L.W. BLAKE, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1956.

The vital statistics show a considerable fall both in birth rate and death rate compared with 1955. No important significance can be attached to these variations however, when only small populations are involved. The comparable death rate is considerably lower than that for England and Wales as a whole. Measles occurred extensively as it did in other parts of the County, a high proportion of the child population being infected.

No significant changes occurred in the Town's Water Supply and it seems probable that such will be the case until the formation of a Joint Water Board. The bacteriological results of samples indicate that the water continues to be safe.

Slum clearance has made some progress, the Council having abandoned the statutory procedure of compulsory purchase in favour of the slower process of negotiation. The end result may well be the same, and the need for Public Inquiry will have been avoided.

The new regulations on food handling have given a good opportunity for obtaining improvements in the food shops in the Town, most of which now have the minimal requirements for safe food handling. The nature of the premises in some cases prevent the type of further improvements one would like to see. The appropriate facilities now having been installed, it is hoped that all those employed in food handling will use them conscientiously for the benefit of the public.

My thanks are due to Mr. Lawless and Mr.Blake for much information contained in the report and for their valuable assistance during the year.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN REED

Medical Officer of Health.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

1. STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in Acres	3, 312
Estimated Mid-Year Population	5, 970
Number of Inhabited Houses	1, 527
Rateable Value	£58, 235
Product of Penny Rate	£254
Comparability Factors:	
(a) Births	1.16
(b) Deaths	0.26

Vital Statistics

Live Births — Number of Registered Live Births 1956.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	22	32	54
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	24	33	57

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	= 9.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	= 15.7
Comparable Birth Rate	11.02

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	2	4

Infant Deaths Two infant deaths were recorded, both occurring in the first month of life.

Deaths — Number of Registered Deaths, 1956.

Male	Female	Total
91	117	208

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	= 34.9
Death Rate England & Wales per 1,000 population	= 11.7
Comparable Death Rate	9.05

Deaths by Diseases	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease	51	67	118
Cerebro Vascular Disease	4	11	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2	4
Respiratory Diseases excluding Tuberculosis	6	14	20
Cancer	12	6	18
Accident	2	7	9
Other Causes	14	10	24
	91	117	208

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital and Maternity Accommodation

Hospital and maternity facilities remained unchanged during 1956. A new physiotherapy department at the East Cornwall Hospital to be provided by Toc H. and the Rotary Club was started.

Laboratory Services were available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

County Council Services :-

Ambulance Service- No change occurred in these arrangements which were adequate during the year.

Mother & Child Welfare - The Average attendance for the Infant Welfare Centre held twice monthly was 25 per session.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care - All cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and other infectious diseases were visited. Tuberculosis contacts were X-Rayed, tuberculin tested and offered B.C.G. vaccination where necessary. No grants were made through the County Council.

Vaccination and Immunisation - Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox was available through General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare Centre. Anti-poliomyelitis vaccination commenced in May when approximately 10% of the children eligible for vaccination were treated.

Home Help Services - This was supplied on a moderate basis employing a variable number of spare time Home Helps. Long term assistance was given to several cases of age and infirmity.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting Services - Vacancies existed throughout the year for two District Nurses in the town. The service was provided by means of one permanent, one temporary and one part-time nurses.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply

During the year five samples of water from Bodmin Waterworks Company's supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory. In addition nine samples were taken from wells etc., outside the supply area, six of which were satisfactory and three unsatisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year some urgent repairs were carried out to the Scarletts Well Sewage Disposal Works and agreement was sought regarding the siting of the proposed Westheath works. Within the sewerage system, improvements were carried out at Crinnicks Hill, Rock Lane, Westheath Villas and Coronation Terrace. It was noted too that in times of heavy rain the Town Leat adequately served the needs of storm water run off, after its recent overhaul.

Public Conveniences

The new Public Conveniences in the Priory were opened during the year and will prove of value to this busy section of the town. It is hoped that they will not be abused. New plans were prepared to reconstruct the Public Conveniences at the Library for carrying out during the forthcoming year.

Mortuary

During the year it was felt that some attention should be given to that rather neglected building, the Borough Mortuary. This was duly carried out.

Refuse Disposal

The tip situated at Dragon Pits continues in use and tipping during the year was started on the Southern side. Maintenance and cover was carried out with the result that practically no trouble was found with infestation of rats or flies. The new Karrier 16 cubic yards vehicle was delivered during the year with the result that less frequent tipping trips are necessary.

Rodent Control

During the year treatment was carried out to 16 premises involving 39 visits and taking 35 hours. As requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, test baiting of manholes in the Council's sewerage system were carried out in May. Twenty manholes were baited, there being no take in 19 with the result that the Divisional Rodent Officer agreed to no further treatment until April, 1958. Constant supervision was kept on the refuse tip and sewage treatment works and 18½ hours were spent on this work. Various block surveys were completed during the year but in each case practically no trace of rodents were found.

Sanitary Inspections

(a) Summary of Visits

Council Properties	367
Private Houses	188
Food Premises	85
Slaughterhouses	247
Other premises	239

(b) Notices Served

Housing Acts

Time and Place Notices (Sec 11)	18 properties
Demolition Orders	16 properties

Following Time and Place Notices, the Council accepted undertakings to repair and improve three properties

Public Health Act, 1936

Section 39 (Drainage)	2 properties
Section 93 (Abatement)	1 property
Section 138 (Water Supply)	3 properties

Informal Notices 8 properties

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was renewed during the year under the Act, the premises being kept in a satisfactory manner

Disinfestations

During the year five premises were treated for the following :-

Flies	4
Fleas	1

4. HOUSING

Downing Street

Steady progress was maintained in the acquisition of property in this area to facilitate redevelopment and during the year 17 houses were purchased. A plan for redevelopment has been approved and 8 properties demolished to allow for the first stage of re-building. At the end of the year the Contract for the first stage of four two-bedroomed houses had been commenced.

General Housing

During the year the Council took a big step forward in the provision of accommodation for older people. One remaining one-bedroomed bungalow at St.Mary's Close was completed, 11 of the Contract of 14 at Rock Lane completed and a further Contract signed for an additional 22 bungalows at Rock Lane.

Houses completed :	Council 12 (One-bedroomed type)
	Private 6

Eighteen individual houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Improvements Grants.

During the year the Council received four applications for grants to improve premises and in each case a 50% grant was made, amounting to a total sum of £490.

Details of these applications are :-

Conversion of existing rooms to bathrooms together with drainage and hot water supply	3
Erection of kitchen, bathroom, drainage and hot water supply	1

Moveable Dwellings

In addition to the one licensed site in the Borough, the Council licensed three caravans under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered for condemnation :-

489	Tins (Various)
12	Jars (Various)
21	Packets biscuits
20	Swiss rolls
18 lbs	Mushrooms
27 lbs	Lambs' Kidneys
46 lbs	Sliced shoulder ham
19	Bottles sauce
2 sts	Kippers
12 lbs	Cod fillets
14 lbs	Winegums
168 lbs	Lard

Ice Cream

One new registration was made for the sale of ice cream and 26 samples were taken from the 20 premises on the Register

Results of samples submitted to the methylene blue test were :-

Grade 1	19 (73.1%)
Grade 2	7 (26.9%)

Food Hygiene Regulations

The above regulations came into force during the year giving a much higher standard which could be enforced in food premises.

There are the following food premises in the Borough :-

Grocers	16
Greengrocers	4
Fish & Chip Cafes	6
Cafes	4
Public Houses	12
Confectioners	4
Butchers	5
Bakers	4
General Stores	11
School Canteens	3

By the end of the year the majority of shops had complied with the regulations and the few shops left were being brought into line.

The habit of smoking in foodshops was presenting some difficulty but warnings in the first instance were having the desired effect.

Fairs and Foodstuffs

The visits of travelling fun fairs brought an influx of food premises with them, the standards of which varied greatly. The main vans and trailer stalls were in spotless condition and equipped with a hot and cold water supply and washbasin and were of a very high and commendable standard. The difficuly arose with certain types of candyfloss, rock and toffee apple vendors whose equipment often consisted of a plain dirty wooden table without any adequate covering. The difficulty in dealing with these premises has now been mainly removed as the Council have agreed to allow only approved foodstalls on the Fairpark site in future.

Milks and Dairies

The following licences were operating during the year :-

Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk	6
Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Premises in the Borough handling milk were visited and found satisfactory.

Slaughter of Animals

During the year two private slaughterhouse licences were renewed and six licences to slaughter issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1954.

The following carcasses and offal were inspected :-

	1956	1955
Cattle	215	183
Calves	11	5
Sheep and Lamb	546	269
Pigs	269	162

For details of condemnations see Appendix A.

6. FACTORIES

During the year 22 visits were paid to factories, there being 36 on the Register. In these cases the premises were found in a satisfactory state.

7. PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1956.

Measles	331
Scarlet Fever	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3
Dysentery	2
Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	1

There was an extensive outbreak of measles during the year occurring in the late Summer and Autumn. Few complications were reported. Scarlet Fever was notified more frequently than past years and there have been other indications that the haemolytic streptococcus was widely spread. Whooping cough notifications were still very small, and the reported dysentery occurred in St.Lawrence's Hospital. Three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the town in May. The response was small. The findings were as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total	%
Number Examined	370	413	783	
Number Examined on Large Films	27	12	39	4.9
Number Examined Clinically	10	4	14	1.7

Incidence of Disease

(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Newly Discovered Cases	Per 1,000
1 male	1.2

Inactive

7

(b) Other Conditions

Pneumonia	1
Farmer's Lung	1
Silicosis	4
Bronchitis	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1
Thyroid Enlargement	1
Acquired Cardio Vascular Disease	1

The unit hope to pay a further visit in the future and it is also hoped that a much larger attendance will be achieved.

The Unit attended in March for the X-Ray of 13 years old schoolchildren who were tuberculin tested and vaccinated with B.C.G.

Appendix A.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned In Whole or In Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	215	Nil	11	546	269	Nil
Number Inspected	215	Nil	11	546	269	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticeri	2.33	Nil	Nil	0.18	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	19	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	1.86	Nil	Nil	Nil	7.43	Nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
3